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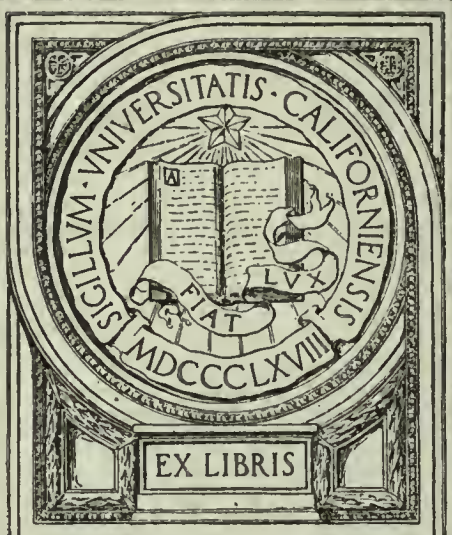

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WITH

GROUND PLANS, ELEVATIONS, SECTIONS AND DETAILS

OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL REMAINS AT

SLIGO ABBEY,

CO. SLIGO.

VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS

Extract from

The Eighty-second Annual Report

OF THE

Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland

1913-1914.

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PHELAN

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

The Ecclesiastical Remains at Sligo Abbey, CO. SLIGO.

By ROBERT COCHRANE, LL.D., I.S.O., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

Historical Note.—Sligo Abbey was founded in 1252 for Dominican Friars by Maurice Fitzgerald, son of Gerald (son of Maurice, who came to Ireland in 1169), first Baron of Offaly. He was Lord Justiciary of Ireland from 1232 to 1245, and was the first to bring the Dominican and Franciscan Orders to Ireland. The *Annals of Loch Cè* give the date of its erection as 1253. The Castle of Sligo was erected a short time previously by the same founder.

The structure suffered many vicissitudes. In 1360 MacWilliam Boucher burned the town and Abbey. In 1414 they were again accidentally burned down, and in 1416 the Abbey was rebuilt by Friar Bryan MacDonogh, son of Dermod MacDonogh, tanist of Tirerrill and Collooney, with assistance from Pope John XXIII., who granted indulgences to all who contributed to its restoration. In 1418 Tighernan O'Rourke, King of Breffni, was buried in the Monastery. In 1484 Bryan MacDonogh, of Tirerrill, was buried here.

In 1568 on the petition of O'Connor Sligo, who pointed out that his ancestors were buried in the Abbey, Queen Elizabeth exempted it from dissolution on condition that the friars were converted into secular priests. This O'Connor was a benefactor to the Abbey, and an elaborate monument was erected to him in the choir; it still exists, and is described further on. Another benefactor was Pierce O'Timony, whose monument has been destroyed.

In 1595 George Bingham, brother of the President of Connaught, took possession of the Abbey while besieging the neighbouring castle, and used much of its woodwork in making engines for the siege. Much damage was done to the building at this time.

During the wars of the 16th century the Abbey was often occupied and fortified. A letter of 1599, published in the State papers, after giving particulars of a proposed expedition to besiege Sligo, states that "The Abbey will receive 1,000 men, which is not a musket shot from the castle, and in twenty-four hours will be made strong enough to defend themselves against all Ireland."

In the disturbance of 1641 the town of Sligo was burned by Sir Frederick Hamilton, and it is said the Abbey was at the same time burned together with the friars who had returned to it, two of them who tried to escape being killed by the soldiers.

Sligo Abbey furnished four provincials of the Irish Province of the Dominican Order.

After the dissolution the Abbey was granted to Sir William Taffe, and it eventually became, with other lands in Sligo, the property of the late Lord Palmerston, who spent some money on repairs and renovation. After his death his kinsman, the late Hon. Evelyn Ashley, vested in the Board in December, 1893, portion of the Abbey. In July, 1913, the present owner, Mr. Wilfred W. Ashley, M.P., vested the entire structure in the Board.

Description of the Buildings.—The church consists of the nave with side aisle and south chapel or transept, and the choir separated from the nave by the Rood Screen and Tower.

North of the choir are the vaulted sacristy and guardian's apartments, with a staircase leading to the upper storey.

The existing remains are the choir and tower of the church, together with large portions of the nave and south transept. The north, east and south sides of the cloister are also in good preservation with the eastern range of buildings and portions of the north-eastern wing. (See Drawings Nos. 1 and 2).

The choir, sacristy, and portion of the chapter house are the oldest portions now existing. The former is 21 ft. 4 in. in breadth internally and 58 ft. 3 in. in length, including the space now taken up by the tower. The side walls are 3 ft. 7 in. and the east wall 4 ft. 5 in. in thickness. In the north wall the only features are the small plain doorways leading to the sacristy and the cloister, and a large recess from which the dressings have been removed. This recess occupies the position usually reserved for the tomb of the founder. The south wall is pierced by eight lancet windows 1 ft. 5½ in. in width and 14 ft. in height, widely splayed and separated by broad piers. (See Drawings Nos. 5 and 11). These lights take up the entire side of the choir, and two of them have been closed by late additions, the eastern by the

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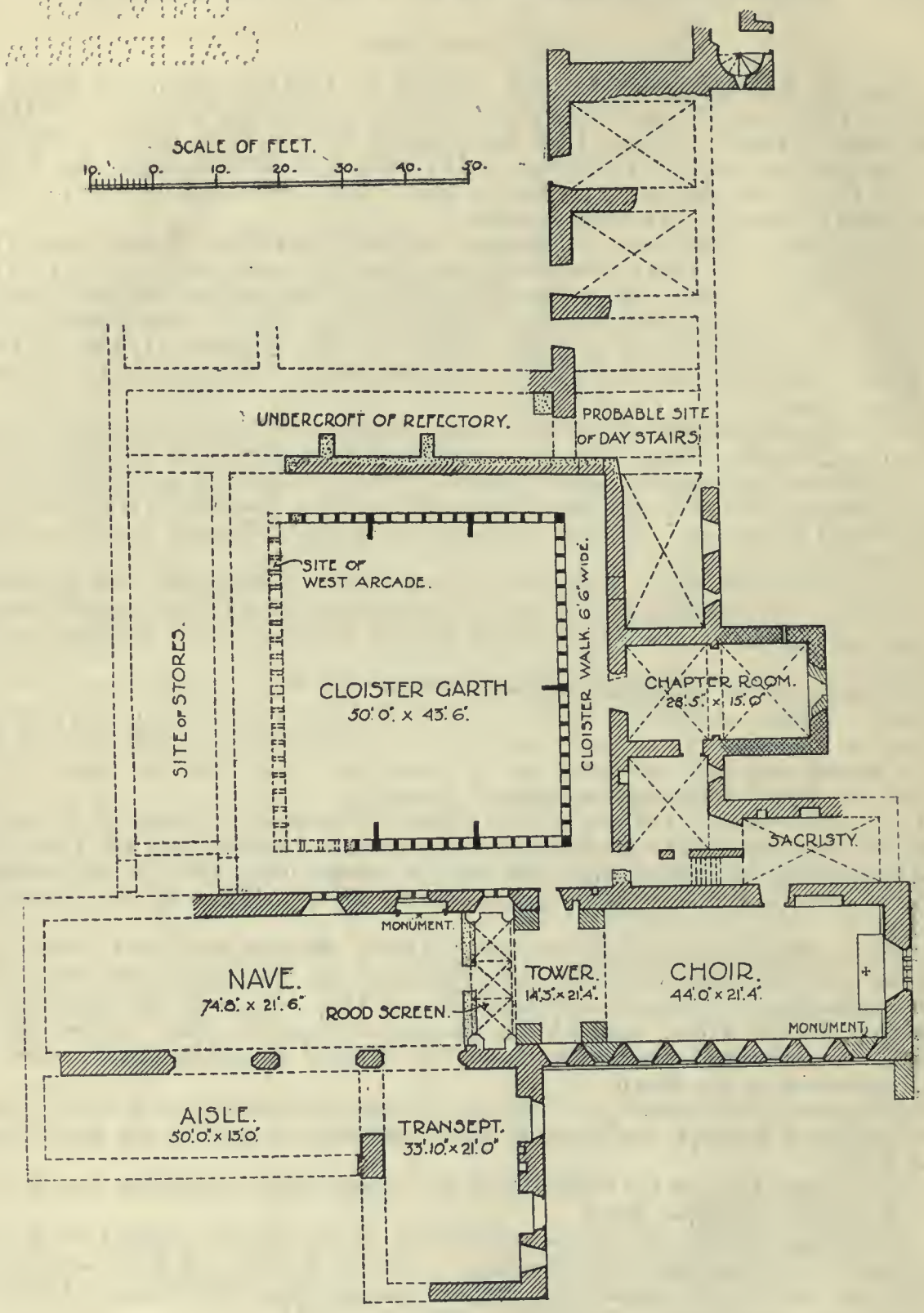
mural monument of Sir Donogh O'Connor, described further on, and the second from the western end by one of the piers of the tower. The recesses which contained the piscina and sedilia from which the cut stone has been entirely

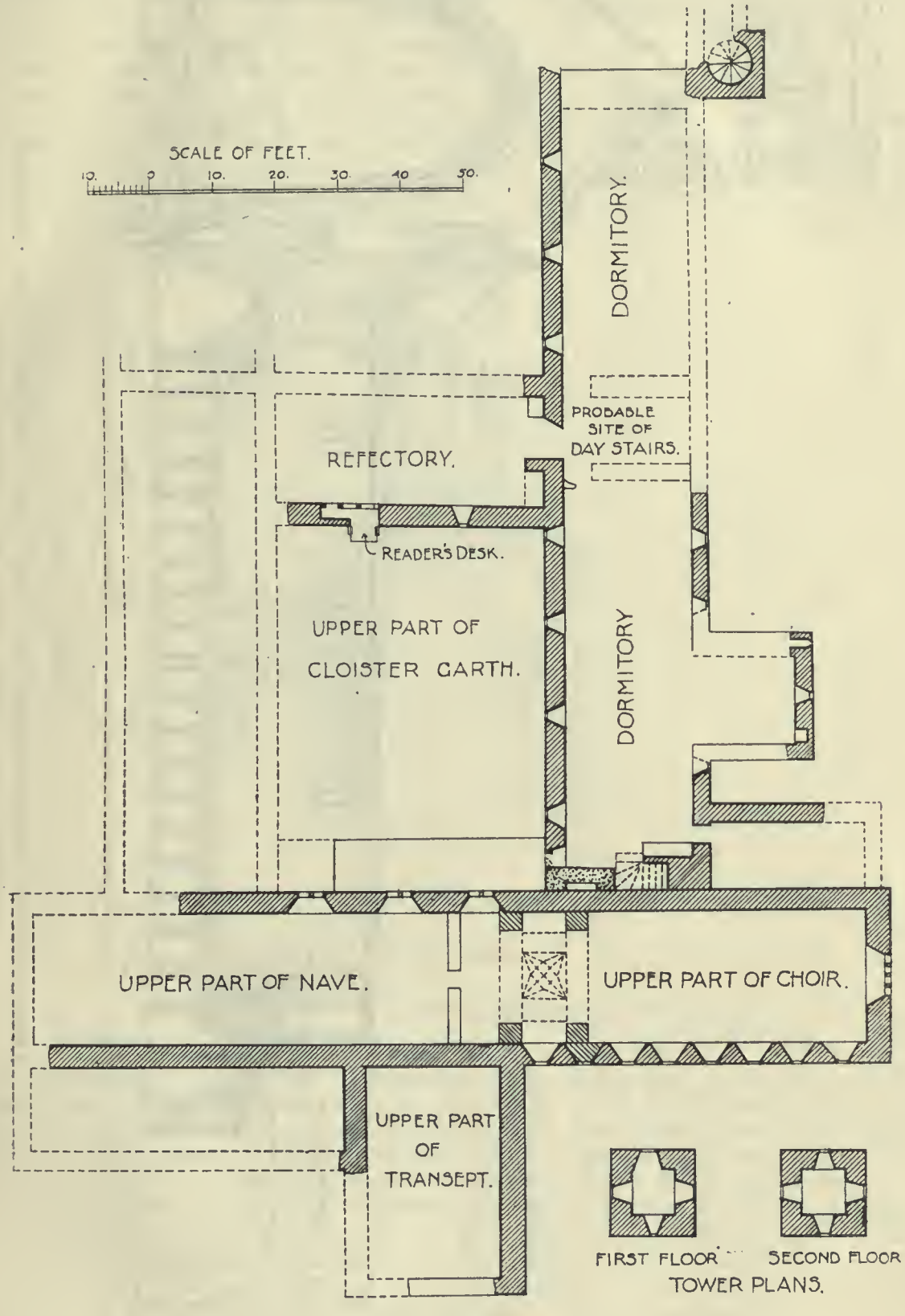


Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 1, Ground Plan.

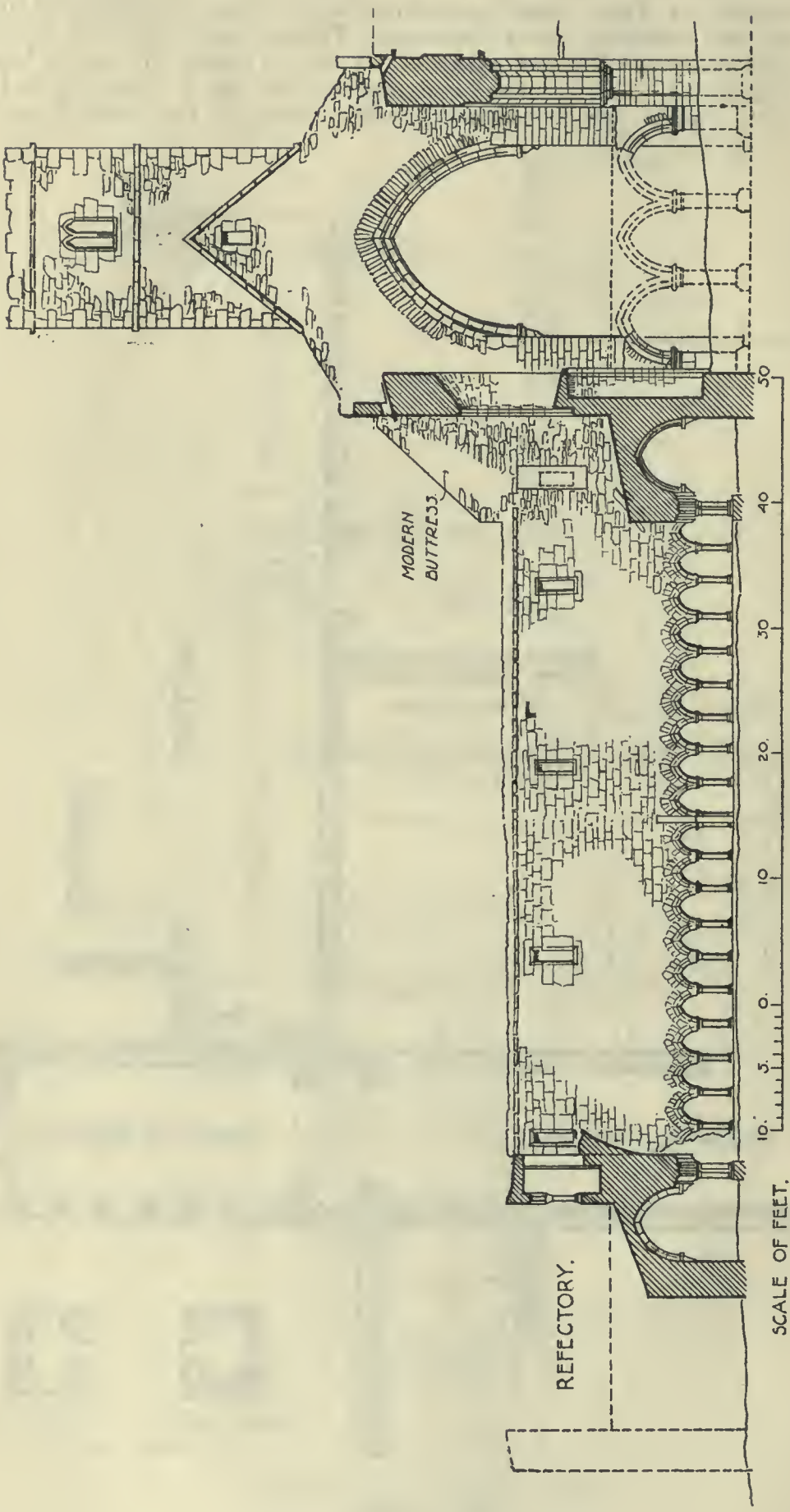
removed are in the south wall of the choir. The original east window was a triplet, the lights of which were similar to the lancets in the south wall; these were removed about the end of the fifteenth century, and a moulded window of four lights with geometrical tracery was substituted. (See Drawings Nos. 9 and 10). At the angles of the splay there are slender banded pilasters with moulded bases and carved

capitals which support the internal arch over the window. The dressings of the east and south windows and of the chapter house window are of brown sandstone of uneven colour; all the other dressings are of limestone. The stone altar has been re-erected from the original stones and is of unusual size, 11ft. 9in. in length, 4ft. 4in. in breadth and 3ft. 3in. in height. The front is highly carved, its length being divided into nine panels with cusped ogee heads and foliage carving of the fifteenth century;



Sligo Abbey.
Drawing No. 2, Upper Plan.

in one panel a rose is carved, and in another bunches of grapes. The altar table is formed of five slabs one of which is an insertion. The remaining four exhibit a cross and an inscription, one word of which is on each stone. The cross is in a square frame 13½ in. wide, both cross and frame being formed of two bands which interlace at the

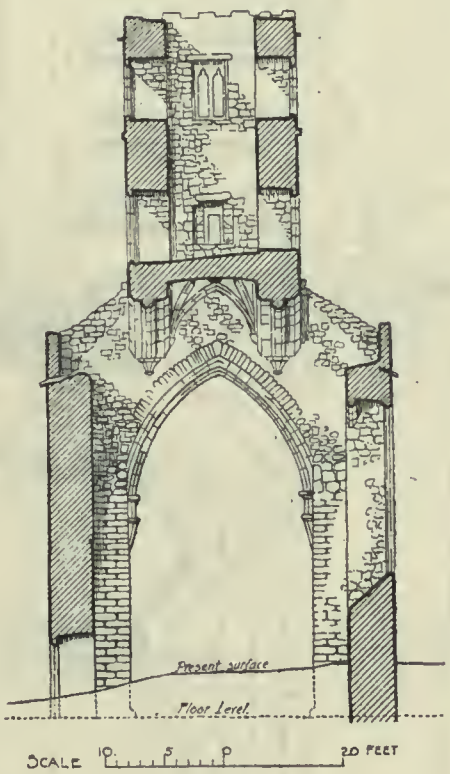


Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 3, Section through Cloister and Nave; showing Chancel Arch and Tower, also the Rood Screen as it formerly existed.

centre and at the points where the cross meets the frame. These latter points are surrounded by circles also interlaced, the whole forming five connected crosses. On the same stone is the word M E, and on the others IOHAN. FIERI. FECIT. The missing stone probably bore the surname of the donor of the altar. (See Drawing No. 15).

The tower is of later date, and was inserted in the western end of the choir separating it from the nave without disturbing the walls. It is supported on pointed arches resting on four piers of cut stone, each 3 ft. by 3 ft. 7 in., dimensions which are less than those of piers under towers in other abbeys. The span of the choir arch under the tower is 15 ft. 4 in., and as the breadth of the tower above is only 14 ft. 3 in. its side walls rest entirely on the haunches. The crown of the chancel arch is at a level of 29 ft. above the original floor, and the under side of the tower is groined in fan vaulting. The tower is entered by a small doorway in the north side wall above the level of the church roof; the upper portion is divided into two stages; the walls are 3 ft. 7½ in. in thickness, thus leaving an internal space 7 ft. square. The north wall of the tower is taken up by the doorway mentioned and the other sides by small



Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 4, Section through Tower.

windows opening into the roof of the church near the ridge. The south window supplied the light; its dimensions are 4 ft. in height and 7 in. in width, the jambs are chamfered, and the head is pointed with four cusps. (See Drawing No. 13.) The upper floor or bell-stage has four windows of identical form, each having two lights 3 ft. 9 in. in height and 10 in. in width; the arrises are chamfered and the heads cusped.

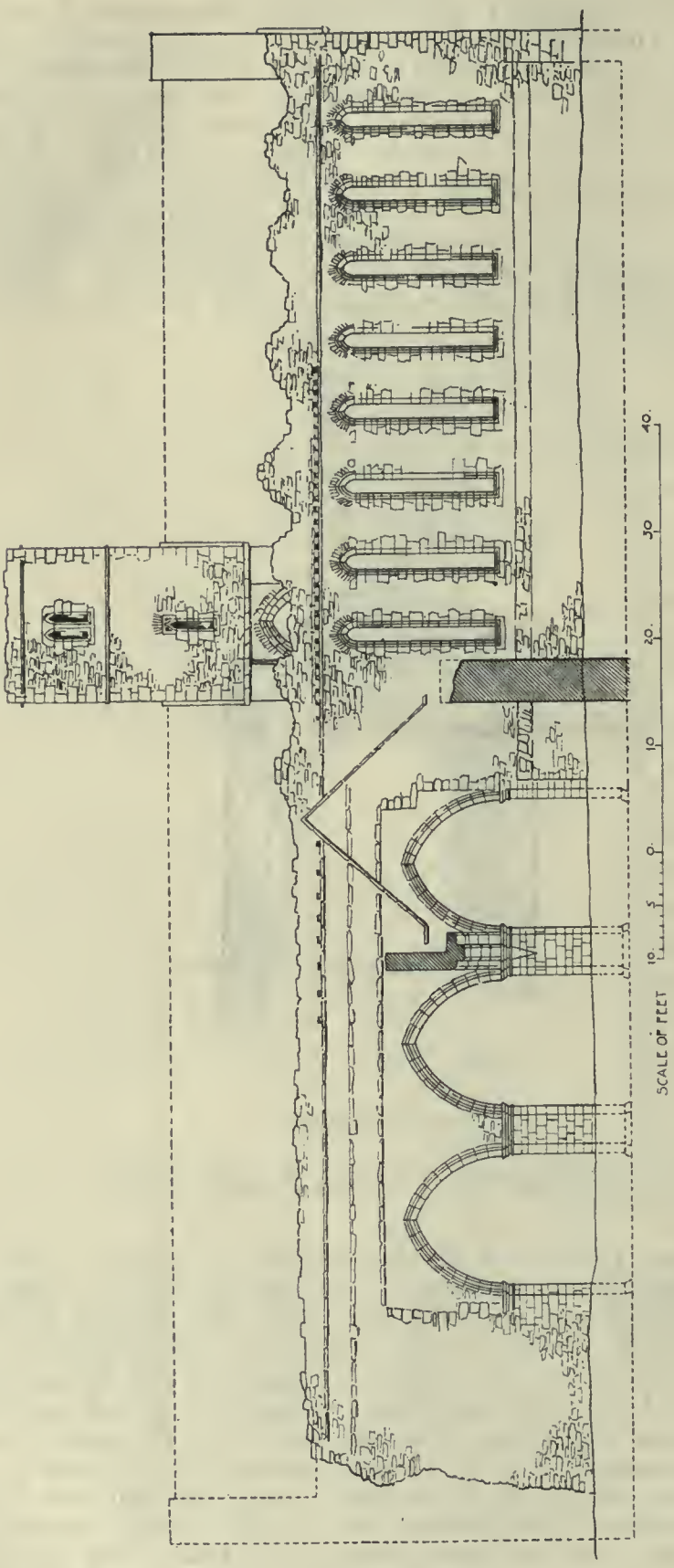
The total height of the tower excluding the parapets, which were destroyed, is 58 ft., and the height of the church roof as marked by the apex of the oversailing courses of the tower was 43 ft. 9 in. (See Drawings Nos. 3, 4 and 5).

The nave is of the same width as the chancel, and the roof over was continuous. Owing to the destruction of the western wall its exact length is uncertain; there are some indications that it was not much greater than that of the existing portion of the south wall of nave which extends to 64 ft. 10 in. from the Rood Screen.

The existing portion of the north wall of the nave is pierced by three windows, each of two pointed lights 9 ft. 1 in. in height and 1 ft. 4 in. in width, with chamfered jambs and mullions. (See Drawing No. 12.) Immediately under the windows, externally, are traces of a string course which protected the roof of the original cloister. Another and later string course under which the roof of the present cloister terminated

abuts against the windows at one-third of their height. Below the north-east window of the nave is the O'Craian or Crean tomb described further on.

The south wall of the nave has an arcade of three lofty arches 12ft. in span, opening



Sligo Abbey.

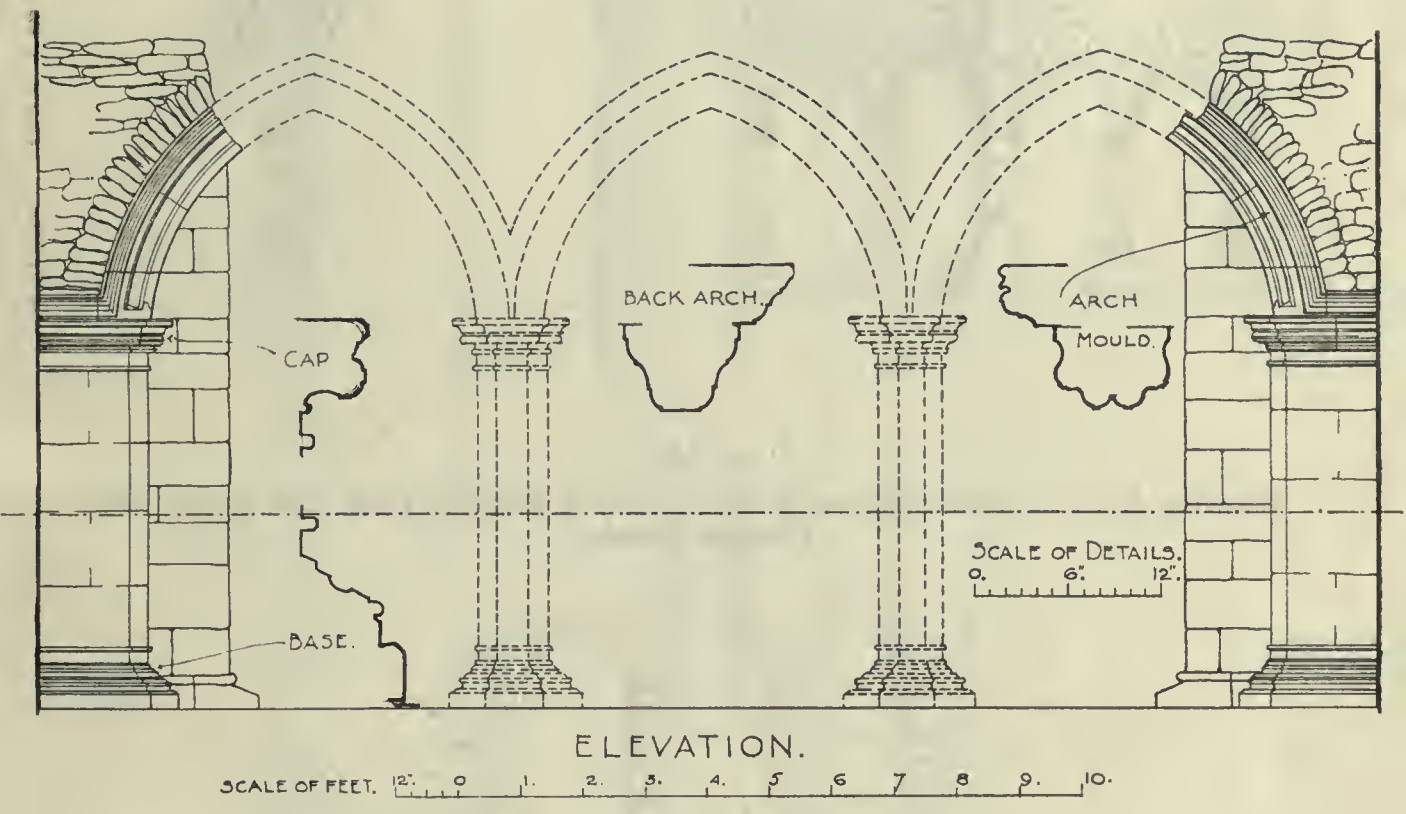
Drawing No. 5, South Elevation of existing remains.

into the side aisle and transept. The arches are pointed, and have outer and inner ribs chamfered on both sides. The piers are 12 ft. in height and 4 ft. 5 in. by 2 ft. 11 in. with moulded capitals. The walls of nave and choir are 28 ft. 9 in. in height, and were finished by water tables formed of overlapping slabs, and had stepped parapets furnished with a drip course and numerous channels for the escape

of water. The roof was covered with sandstone flags about half an inch in thickness and secured by wooden pegs. Fragments of these flagstones were found amongst the rubbish and have been placed with the carved stones in the eastern cloister.

The Rood Screen occupied the eastern end of the nave, and was unusually elaborate, but only the end portions now remain attached to the side walls and enable the Screen to be restored on paper. (See Drawing No. 6.) The space over the Screen formed a gallery 7 ft. in width across the church, and was supported on two arcades of pointed arches on octagonal columns, the soffit being vaulted and groined. The columns are 6 ft. 3 in. in height, and spaced 6 ft. 4 in. apart, centre to centre. The mouldings on the east side were partially cut away when the piers of the tower were built.

Of the transept and aisle only the east wall of the former and the arch which connected them now remain. The transept is 33 ft. 10 in. in length and 21 ft. in breadth, and the wall which remains is 16 ft. in height. In its east wall are two recessed windows 13 ft. in height by 7 ft. in width which lighted the altars of two side chapels. An aumbry and piscina exist in the wall space between the windows, and there is a



SLIGO ABBEY.

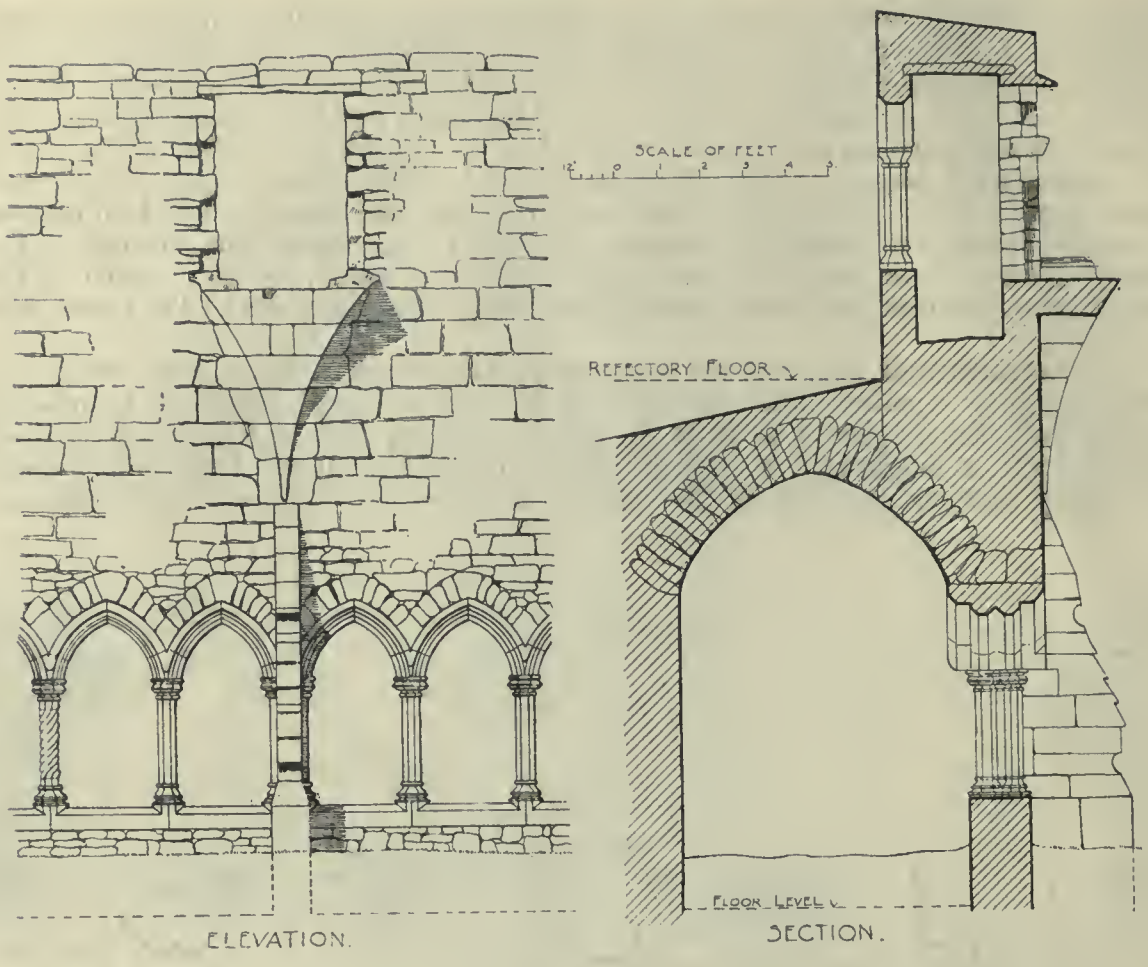
Drawing No. 6, Restored Elevation of Rood Screen, and details of mouldings.

second piscina at the south east angle of the transept. The arch which now opens into the south aisle is a semi-ellipse of 9 ft. span. It rests on corbels, and has indications of some rebuilding at a time antecedent to the vesting of the structure.

The cloister garth was almost rectangular, the western side being about 10 in. longer than the eastern. The dimensions were 50 ft. from north to south and 42 ft. 6 in. from east to west. The ambulatory surrounding has an internal breadth varying from 6 ft. 3 in. to 6 ft. 7 in. The western side has disappeared, but there are indications sufficient to fix its position. (See Drawings Nos. 1 and 3).

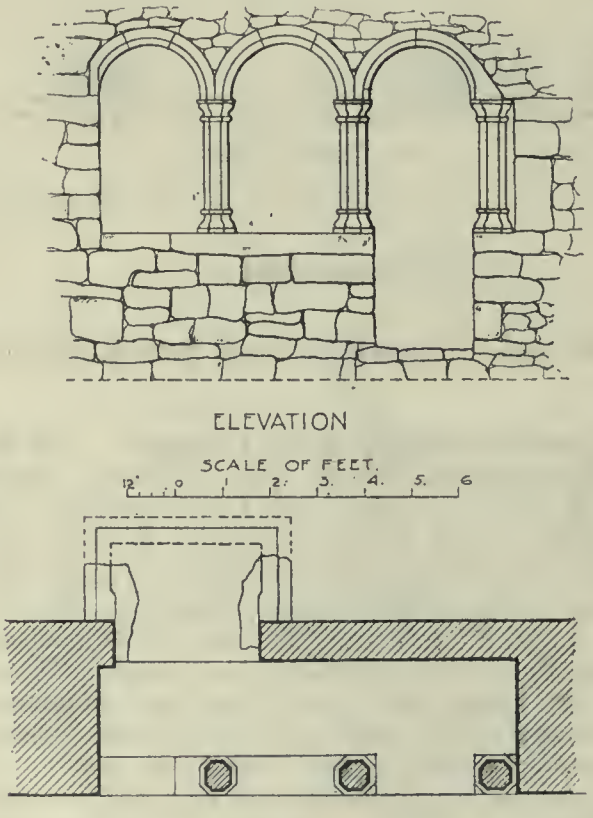
The domestic buildings where they extend over the ambulatory are supported on an arcade of double-shafted pillars and plain chamfered arches. The pillars are 3 ft. in height, and spaced 2 ft. 8½ in. from centre to centre. These pillars support a considerable weight, as they carry the vaulted roof and a wall 12 ft. in height and 3 ft. 7 in. in thickness.

The refectory was situated on the upper floor, and the place for the reader's pulpit may be seen over the northern cloister arcade. It was placed in the thickness of the wall and opens into the room by three small arches with octagonal columns; light



SLIGO ABBEY.

Drawing No. 7, Exterior Elevation and Section of Reader's Desk in Refectory over Cloister Arcade.

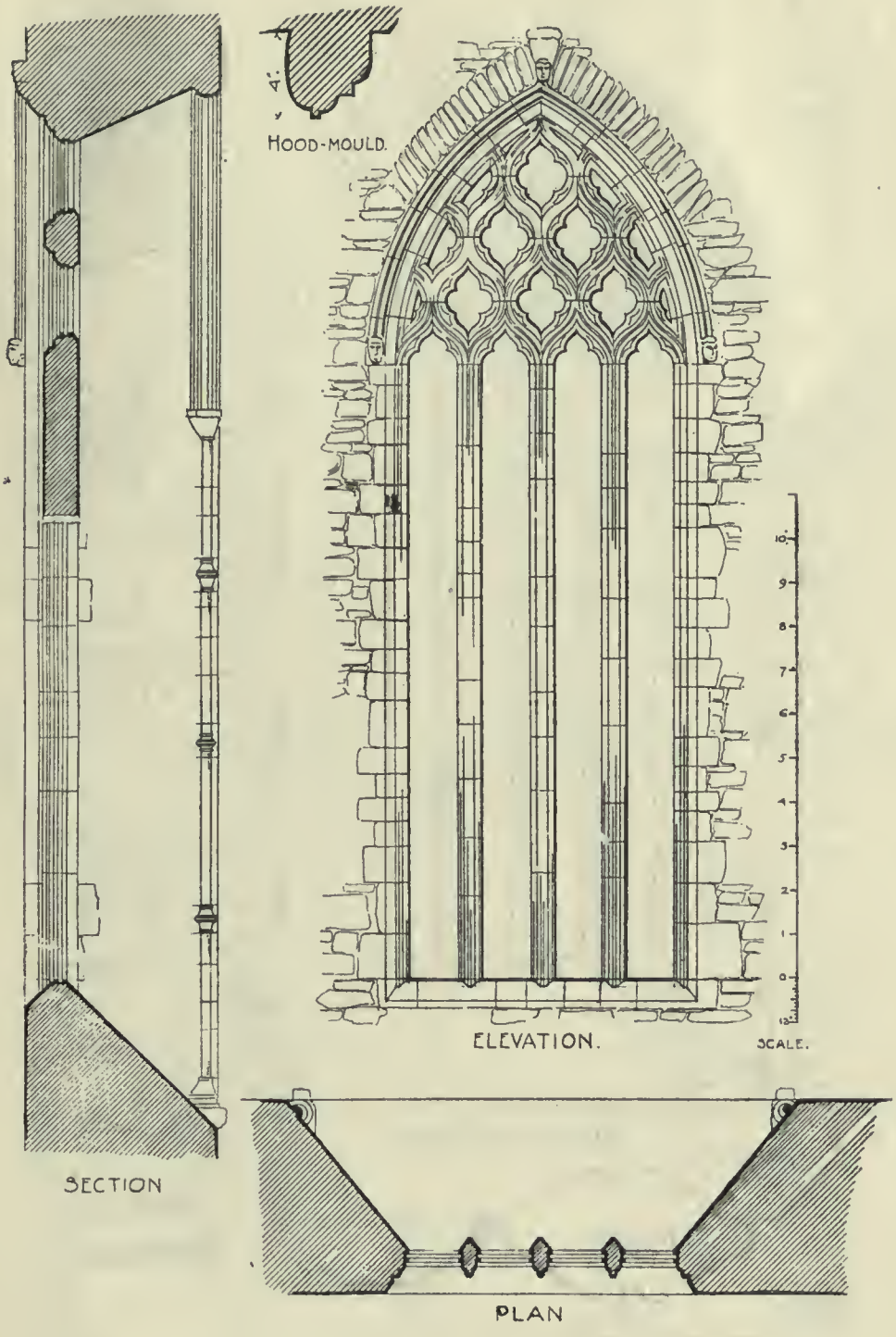


SLIGO ABBEY.

Drawing No. 8, Plan and Internal Elevation of Reader's Desk in Refectory.

was provided by an oriel window supported on a projecting bracket. The remains of this window and reader's desk have been mistaken for an open-air pulpit. (See Drawings Nos. 7 and 8).

A number of the shafts, capitals and arch stones from the missing portion of the cloisters have been found amongst the rubbish, and placed in the ambulatory near the south-eastern angle. The only buildings which still exist other than the church

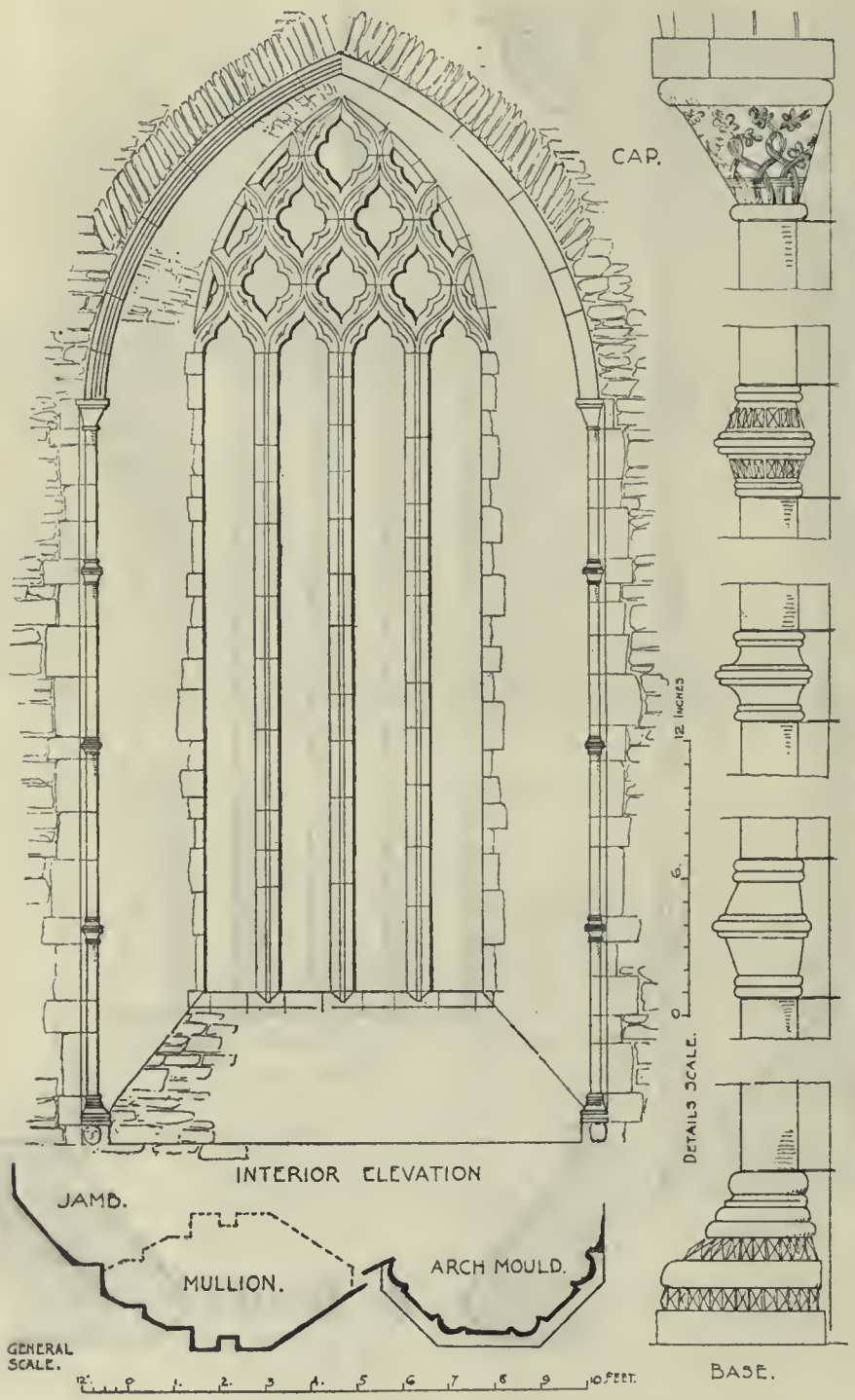


Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 9, Plan, Section, and Exterior Elevation of early fifteenth century east window.

and cloister form portion of the eastern range; the entire ground floor of this range was vaulted and the dormitories were overhead. On many of these vaults the marks of wicker centering remain. Approached from the doorway in the north wall of choir are two small rooms respectively 22 ft. by 10 ft. 4 in. and 14 ft. by 12 ft. 6 in. These were used as the sacristy and vestry. There is a stairway leading to the domestic apartments of the Prior overhead. The chapter room adjoins, and is 28 ft. 5 in. from east to west, and 15 ft. from north to south, and is covered by a plain slightly

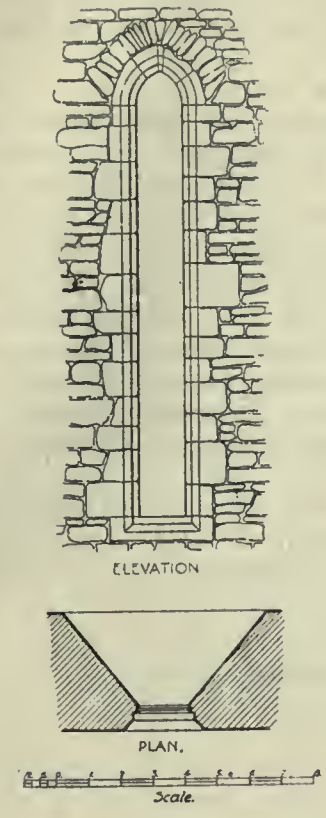
pointed rubble vault, across the centre of which is a cut stone arch. This arch is in the line of the outer wall of the adjoining buildings, and indicates the size of the original chapter room. The eastern extension contains the lower portion of a three-light window, the dressings of which are of sandstone similar to that used in the choir windows. In modern times it has been partially built up, and a small window of limestone inserted in the centre light. The buildings north of the chapter room are



Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 10, Interior Elevation of East Window, with details.

greatly broken down, but enough remains to show that they consisted of a range 26 ft. 6 in. wide and 22 ft. to the eave. The lower storey was occupied by a number of small vaulted chambers, each with a separate entrance, and the upper portion was used as dormitories. At the north-eastern angle is a square tower 10 ft. 6 in. in width, and containing a winding stair to give access to the apartments above. The total extent of this wing is uncertain, as the northern end has been pulled down and the foundations removed in making graves.



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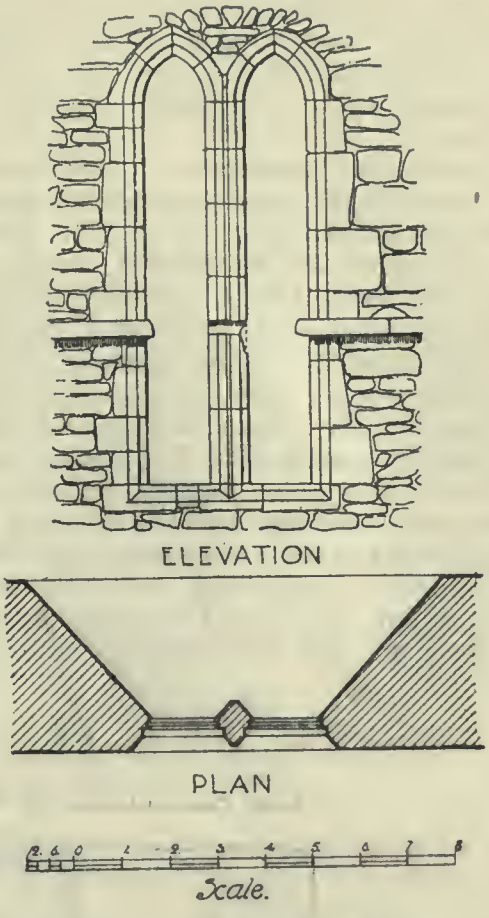
Drawing No. 11. Plan and Exterior Elevation of South Window of Choir.



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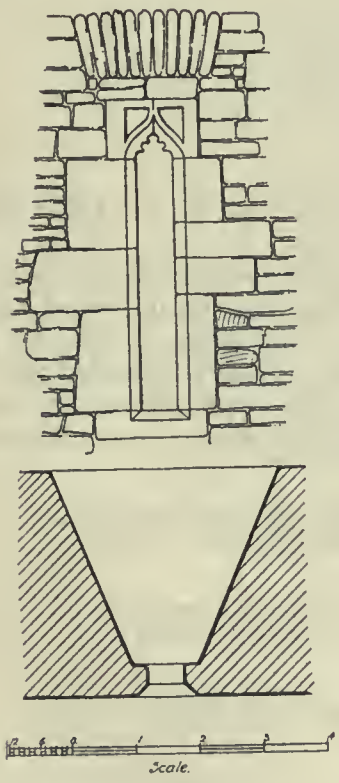
Drawing No. 12. Plan and Exterior Elevation of Window in North Wall of Nave.



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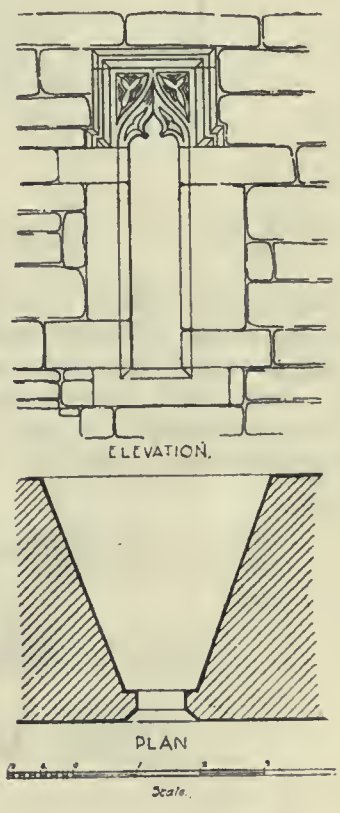
Drawing No. 13. Plan and Exterior Elevation of Window in South Wall of Tower.



SLIGO ABBEY.

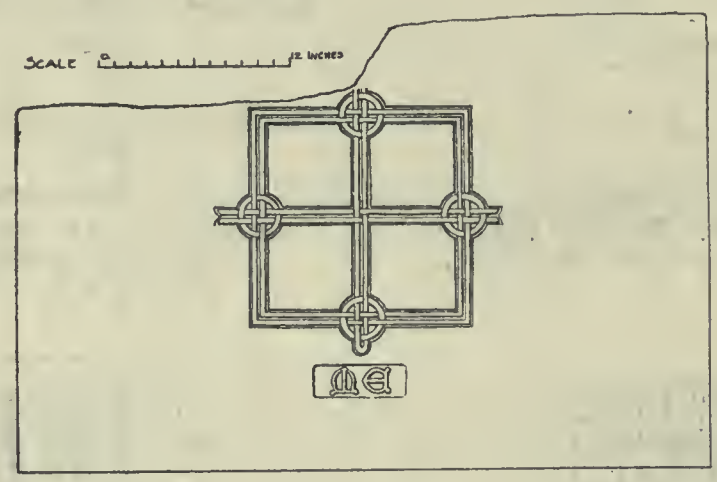
Drawing No. 14. Plan and Exterior Elevation of Window in Refectory.

The monuments and memorial stones exhibit a great variety of style and period, some of the carving being of great excellence in design and execution.

The earliest date is found on the O'Craian or Crean altar tomb. This occupies the north-eastern angle of the nave where the lower portion of a window is built up to make room for it.

The monument consists of a horizontal slab 7 ft. in length by 2 ft. in breadth, placed in a recess, and supported on a carved front formed of a single stone 7 ft. 7 in. in length and 3 ft. 2½ in. in height. (See illustrations.) Above it is an arch 11 ft. 2 in. in height, which forms a canopy and is filled in with moulded and pierced tracery, the lower portion of which is now missing. The tracery is of a very graceful design, and when complete showed four arched ribs one above another, and all connected on the centre line by members which enclosed foiled openings. Two stones of the missing tracery were found during the repairs, and as they are insufficient for a reconstruction they have been placed on the table of the monument for comparison with the other stonework. The front of the tomb is carved in nine niches, surmounted by arched canopies of beautiful design, each differing from the others. These canopies are decorated with leaf work having plaited and twisted stems, and are separated by pilasters of alternating design.

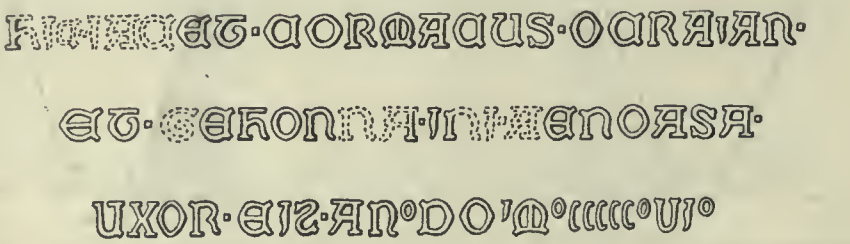
The figures which occupy the niches are crudely carved. The central panel contains the crucifixion, the figure being emaciated, the head inclined, and the feet crossed. The panels at each side of the crucifixion contain figures which may represent the



Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 15. Portion of Dedication Cross on High Altar Slab.

Virgin Mary and St. John. At the ends of the stone are respectively a friar and archbishop, recognisable by their dress. Next to the friar is a figure robed and crowned and bearing a sword, and next to this a figure in a long gown secured by a belt, and carrying a staff with a pear-shaped end. This is probably intended for a pilgrim. Next to the archbishop is a man dressed in a short robe and holding in his hand the key usually associated with St. Peter. The remaining figure is evidently St. Michael



Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 16. Inscription on the O'Craian Monument in the Nave.

the Archangel, identified by his wings, his cross-bearing shield and his uplifted sword.

Along the upper margin of the stone is inscribed in raised Lombardic characters and in one line :—

HIC IACET CORMACUS OCRAIAN ET . EHON. . 1 . . . ENOASA.
UXOR EIS AN°. DOi M°CCCCC° VI°.*

The base of this monument serves to show the original floor level of the church, covered by 3 ft. of rubbish and burials.

Another monument, which belongs to much the same period, is a moulded and tapered slab 5 ft. 9 in. in length and 1 ft. 9 in. in breadth, narrowing to 1 ft. 5 in. This stone lies in the choir close to the south wall; it was covered by the clay, and was raised up to the present surface without being moved from its position. It is peculiar in having the narrow end treated as the upper. The carving is worn and difficult to make out, but enough remains to show that there is an inscription in five lines of raised Lombardic letters across the narrow end; under this is a crucifixion with a figure standing at each side. Below the crucifixion is the figure of a large animal, probably intended for a griffin, and a pattern of rosettes, two rows of three being placed across the stone above a row of smaller ones. (See Drawing No. 17). The inscription reads :—

HIC IACE		HERE LIES
TUORDAIN		JORDAN
McCATRUES	that is	MACCATHRUE
UA UX MARIE		HIS WIFE MARIA
FECIT HOC.		MADE THIS.

Several armorial stones which formed portion of monuments now destroyed are preserved in the Abbey. The earliest of these, dated 1616, is a rectangular stone 2 ft. 4 in. in height by 1 ft. 11 in. in width, and bears a complete achievement of arms carved in high relief.

Smaller stones, 16 in. in height, and respectively 12 in. and 10 in. in width, bear the same arms and initials separately, and probably belonged to the same monument.

Sligo Abbey.

Drawing No. 17. Sepulchral Slabs in Choir and Nave.

In them the arms are correctly placed respectively on a shield and a lozenge which are mounted on circular panels with pointed tops; the letters are in rectangular panels below. The stone of this pair which bears the Crean arms is placed in the Abbey with the two armorial stones, next described, in the south-western angle of the choir. The other with the French arms had been removed before the vesting to the

*(Here lies Cormac O'Craian and Johanna daughter of Ennis his wife. In the year of our Lord, 1506). (See Drawing No. 16).

Holy Well at Tabernalt, two miles south-east of Sligo; where it may be seen built into the front of the altar.

Another armorial stone 2 ft. 1 in. in height and 1 ft. 11 in. in width bears the Crean arms impaled with a lion rampant, and is dated 1625. There is no crest, the date being placed over the wreath.

Beside the last mentioned stone is placed another carved with a shield, crest, helmet and mantling, but without letters or date. The shield bears—*Gules*, on a cross between four mullets pierced; *or*, a pheon with broken staff point downwards of the field, crest—a bird's wing azure. These arms belong to Sir Roger Jones, of Sligo, who died in 1635, and was buried in St. John's Church, where his broken monument still exists. It is probable that some member of his family was buried in the Abbey under a monument to which this stone belonged.

The large and imposing mural monument of Sir Donogh O'Connor (known as O'Connor Sligo) and his wife belongs to the same period as the stones just described. It was erected in 1624 as mentioned in the inscription given below, the window nearest the altar on the south side having been built up to receive it. The carving of this monument is of a high quality, the figures of O'Connor and his wife having the appearance of portraits. Its extreme dimensions are 14 ft. 9 in. in height and 6 ft. 7 in. in breadth. It has three divisions, separated by boldly projecting mouldings which form a cornice and plinth to the central or principal compartment. At the highest point is a crucifix, the figure of which is 16 in. in height, the head being upright and the feet fastened by one nail. Below the crucifix is a stone of semi-circular shape on which is carved in high relief the achievement of O'Connor, a shield bearing an oak tree erased, surmounted by a knight's helmet with a crowned lion *passant guardant* as crest. The whole is surrounded by artistically designed mantling and the motto

QUO VINCI VINCOR

is cut in relief on the moulding below. Beside the armorial bearings are small pedestals on which stand figures 18 in. in height of St. Peter and St. Paul; one bears a key and a sword, the other a book and a sword. The central division of the monument takes the form of rectangular pilasters and entablature enclosing two arched recesses in which are the figures of Sir Donogh O'Connor and his wife, Lady Elinora Butler, daughter of Lord Dunboyne and widow of Gerald, Sixteenth Earl of Desmond, who was killed in 1583. The figures are 2 ft. 6 in. in height, and are represented kneeling on cushions at either side of a *prie-dieu* on which are placed open books. Sir Donogh is clad in plate armour, his helmet being placed on the ground behind him. He is shown with strong and regular features and wavy hair; and wearing a full beard and moustache. Lady Butler is dressed in a loose flowing robe and overmantle. She wears a close fitting cap on which a coronet is placed. Round her neck is a large ruff and a string of beads which supports a cross of the Greek pattern with expanded ends. The freize bears a Latin inscription in seven lines, the greater portion of which is obliterated owing to the fact that the letters were merely outlined and not cut to any depth. The words for "peace," "war," "your hands," can be made out, which seem to show that the inscription dealt with the exploits of O'Connor. At each end of the inscribed panel is a cherub's head. The O'Connor shield is repeated on the spandril of the arch above his figure; and that of the Butlers, *Per pale*, a chief indented over a crescent, and three covered cups, two and one, occupies the corresponding spandril at the other side. In the spandril between the arches is a shield bearing a boar *passant* standing on a wreath; above is a coronet. The boar was a crest of the Earls of Desmond, and as placed here probably refers to Elizabeth, daughter of Lady Butler, and of her first husband, Gerald Earl of Desmond, who was buried in the same tomb as O'Connor. The pilaster beside O'Connor is carved with a trophy of arms; the other pilaster has a flower laid on an open book, a spade, a reversed torch, and a thurible.

The tympana of the arched niches also bear inscriptions, that over the head of Sir Donogh is somewhat damaged owing to decay of the stone; it reads :—

R
. . . . . RETE CAELUM
. . . NIL DVRABILITER
. . . . . VOCAT AMBOBVS
JUX . . VI VRNA DEI DONATO
COM . . . DESMOND ELINORA
. ARITO

The inscription over the head of Lady Butler is rather better preserved, it reads :—

HVNC FIERI

TVMVLVM FECIT AMEN

SVO CVM DOMINO SAXIS

ELINORAE FILIA CVMBIT ET

COMITIS DESMOND ELIZABETHA

VIRENS

Below the figures and forming the upper portion of the lower compartment of the monument is a long panel containing an inscription and having like the upper inscription a cherub's head at each end. This is by far the most important of the four inscriptions. as it gives particulars of the persons buried below, and it is therefore fortunate that it is in good preservation and can be read as follows :—

HIC IACET FAMOSISSIMVS MILES DONATV^{S} CORNELIANVS
COMITATV^{S} SLIGAE DOMINV^{S} CVM SVA VXORE ILLUSTRIS-
SIMA D$\overline{\text{NA}}$ ELINORA BVTL^{R} COMITISSA DESMONIAE Q$\overline{\text{VE}}$
ME FIERI FECIT A° 1624 POST MORTE SVI MARITI QVI
OBIIT 11° AUG A° 1609 $\overline{\text{ITM}}$ EIVS FILIA ET PRIM^{I} MARIT^{I}
V$\overline{\text{IZT}}$ COMITIS DESMONIÆ N$\overline{\text{OIE}}$ ELIZABETHA VALDE VIR-
TUOSA DNA SEPULTA FVIT HOC IN TVMVLO 31° (*sic*) NOVEM
ANNO DOMINI 1623

It may be translated as :—

" Here lies the very famous soldier Donogh O'Connor, Lord of the County Sligo, with his wife, the most illustrious Lady Elinora Butler Countess of Desmond, who caused me to be erected in the year 1624 after the death of her husband, who departed on the 11th of August in the year 1609; also her daughter by her first husband, that is by the Earl of Desmond, Elizabeth by name, a very virtuous lady, was buried in this tomb on the 31st of November in the year of our Lord 1623."

Below this inscription is a panel containing a winged hour-glass having above it what looks like a heraldic label, and at each side are skulls, ornamental scrolls, and groups of fruit; while beneath is a pendant ornament in the form of a conventionalised bunch of grapes.

The monuments remaining are eighteenth century tombstones which almost all display either arms or religious emblems.

The great number of cherubs' heads cut on the Sligo monuments will be at once noticed by a visitor. It is probable that this fashion was set by the heads carved on the earlier O'Connor monument.

The work done at Sligo Abbey during the year under review comprised the removal of ivy and elder bushes from the walls; loose stones, clay and rubbish from the buildings; and the weathering and pointing necessary for the security of the stonework. A number of large trees which overshadowed the Abbey and injured the walls have also been cut down. The tower was covered with ivy to the top on two sides. The masonry of the tower was in good condition, but advantage was taken of the scaffolding to weather and point all joints which required it. The water channels

through the parapets have also been cleared out. Ivy was also removed from the north and south walls of the choir, the south wall of the nave, and the east wall of the cloister garth, the roots being dug out. A number of small sycamores and elder bushes have been removed from the walls, and the cracks and dislocation of stones where they grew filled in with cement mortar.

Sixteen of the surrounding trees have been cut down and removed, a work of difficulty owing to the monuments under them and to their size, several being as much as 2 ft. in diameter near the ground. The large elder bushes have also been cut down to the number of fourteen, as their seeds frequently take root on the walls; the roots of those near the buildings have been dug up.

Clay and rubbish to the amount of 30 loads have been removed from the foot of the walls and disposed of by filling in numerous hollows in the graveyard, thus levelling the surface and facilitating the cutting of grass and weeds. In removing the stones and clay a large number of carved and moulded stones were uncovered, others were found in various parts of the building and scattered about the graveyard; these have been collected and arranged in the church and eastern cloister walk. Amongst the rubbish were found a number of the original slates of the Abbey; these have been placed with the carved stones in the eastern cloister walk.

The east wall of the transept was more in need of repair than any other portion of the building. It has now been weathered and the upper portion pointed, special care being taken with the places where the hearting was exposed. The arch of the window at the south end was split, and has been made secure with concrete. The walls of the monastic buildings have been weathered. The broken vaults at the north end of the buildings have also been weathered and pointed in cement.

The water from the roofs over the north and south cloister walks was found to be entering the joints in the faces of the walls and percolating through the hearting; to remedy this fillets of cement have been run along the edges and drip stones fitted to carry the water clear of the walls. This leaves the pillars of the arcade dry. A similar fillet and drip have been placed above the O'Connor Sligo Monument to protect it. The south wall of the choir, roughly built with open joints, has been pointed for security, the cement beng kept back from the surface. A small portion of the wall which concealed the front of the Rood Screen has been removed to show the carving; the base of one of the pillars has also been uncovered to show the level of the original floor three feet below.

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